



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112
Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdcc.wa.gov

October 25, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Doug Ellis
(360) 664-2735
Toll free 1-877-601-2828

WASHINGTON RANKS FIRST AMONG 50 STATES IN NATIONAL DISCLOSURE SURVEY

Olympia – Washington's Public Disclosure Commission has again topped all 50 states in a national survey of disclosure requirements and public access to information.

In a report, released today by the Campaign Disclosure Project, Washington ranked first in the nation in a comprehensive analysis of the disclosure of candidate campaign finance information. California ranked second.

The PDC received a top grade in all four subcategories assessed in the national survey.

The areas analyzed were Campaign Disclosure Law (A-), Electronic Filing Program (A+), Disclosure Content Accessibility (A+) and Online Contextual & Technical Usability (A-).

The Campaign Disclosure Project was conducted by the UCLA School of Law, the Center for Governmental Studies, and the California Voter Foundation and was supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Executive Director of the PDC, Vicki Rippie, said she was pleased that the Commission continues to receive national recognition for its work and for the state of Washington.

The number one national ranking for disclosure of candidate campaign finance information comes on the heels of three prior surveys in which the Public Disclosure Commission has come out on top. The PDC received the top national score for the disclosure of Personal Financial Affairs information by candidates and elected officials, ranked number one in Lobbyist disclosure law and the Commission received the highest national rating for ballot measure disclosure.

All three national studies evaluated the comprehensiveness of each state's statutes, timeliness of disclosure, thoroughness of financial information, and ease of public access to disclosure information.

Rippie said the national rankings illustrates that Washington has one of the most comprehensive disclosure laws in the nation and that convenient access to political finance information remains a state priority.

"These top national rankings proves once again that government can conduct the people's business in a professional, efficient and cost effective manner", Rippie said.

Access to full report at <http://www.campaigndisclosure.org/gradingstate/index.html> .

##